

The Tar Heel

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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The Grade System.

Some very strong points can be made against the grade system in a college or university of high rank.

The love of reward for faithful work is not only unobjectionable but commendable, provided it is of the right kind. The reward that a college student should be satisfied with is, not a "one" or "two" for his grade, but the fact that he has mastered a certain amount of knowledge, that he is gaining in mental power.

Not only does grading assume in the student a wrong motive for working, but it causes him to derive less benefit from that work than he otherwise would; e. g., in his preparation of a recitation he becomes interested in a certain phase of the subject. He could well afford to neglect the rest of the lesson in order to work this thought to the end. But no, he is to be graded, hence he must learn what is on the fifteen or twenty pages assigned as a recitation. The tendency is to make him a machine.

The effect on the teacher is no less unfortunate. If his grading is to be accurate, he must usually mark as the student recites. The result is a constant cooling of any interest and enthusiasm that he may attempt to throw into the recitation.

The highest ideal, although it may be utterly impracticable, is to have no recitation grades and no examinations; but for teacher and pupils to work together for a common purpose — to gain knowledge, and make themselves broader men.

TO WHAT was said in the TAR HEEL of Nov. 8, about excusing from examination those members of the Senior class whose term standing is at least ninety, the following may be added;

Examinations usually foster a mechanical method of working. An ambitious student of good mental ability and a reasonable amount of industry must all the while that he is studying and reading on a subject, keep in mind the final examination. This is usually of such a nature and such a length, that his knowledge of the great principles of which he has been studying, and his ability to use them, can be determined, if at all, in a very unsatisfactory manner.

The result is that he answers a number of specific questions which may or may not, test his grasp of

the subject, his power as an independent thinker, and the extent to which he has improved his time. Indeed, instead of testing a student in these points, the examinations oftener than otherwise, test the amount of the text-book that he has been able to commit to memory and retain. The writer knows a number of students whose grades, simply because of their good memory, were nearly always higher than the grades of students who were their acknowledged superiors in all that goes to make true scholarship.

There are two typical students that may be spoken of in this connection: the first is the ambitious, conscientious one, who, from a sense of duty, and from a love of knowledge, does his best every day. He reviews as much as he can, but on examination depends mainly on the knowledge that he has gained during the term. He often fails to do himself full justice because the mental and physical strain of the examination period unfits him for the best work.

The second student is the one who has no desire to know anything, and the height of whose ambition is to "get through." Towards the end of the term, he "gets up" a few "spots;" if he is lucky enough to get them on examination, he is all right; if not, he "falls," gets more "spots," tries again, and maybe "gets through."

Not to require an examination of him who makes a grade of ninety, will stimulate the careless student to do better work; and will give the industrious one fuller play for his own independent thinking.

We regret very much to learn that the game with Vanderbilt has necessarily been declared off on account of trouble in securing the field. Vanderbilt has a strong team, the strongest in its history, and as we too have a team that we feel proud of, it would have been a royal struggle in Atlanta, next Saturday, and one that we were anxious to see take place; not only because we desire to see our athletic strength contrasted with theirs, but we also wish closer relations to exist between us and them. Though young, Vanderbilt has already taken one of the most prominent stands of all the Southern Universities in every branch of college work, and we wish to be as closely allied to them as possible.

As to the game of ball we can only judge of our strength as compared with theirs by their game with Sewanee, and yet this will hardly be a fair comparison as the rivalry between these Tennessee Colleges has attained to such a pitch that each will do its utmost, and this was not the case in Asheville. We hope that in the future arrangements can be satisfactorily made and the contest occur regularly.

We are also very sorry that we are unable to meet our Alabama friends on the field. Mr. Powers, '96, has told us some pleasant stories of them and their team.

We clip the following from the Sewanee *Purple*, and make an humbly apology to the Sewanee captain, if we misunderstood his remarks in the Sewanee-North Carolina game: "We appreciate the *Tar Heel's* pleasant remark on the conduct of our team. It gives us pleasure to testify, in return, to the fine bearing of the Carolina men, both on and off the field. We haven't but one kick to make against them, and perhaps that is not tenable: they played a selfish game; they kept the ball all the time.

We are sorry that the *Tar Heel* should have excepted our Captain in making its compliment to our team. His speeches to which exception seems to have been taken, were prompted by a desire on his part to hurry the game, which was incessantly delayed, to Carolina's advantage as it appeared to him, and not from a lack of sympathy for any real injury to a Carolina player. No man at Sewanee enjoys greater, or more justly deserved popularity, than he on whom the wrath of our contemporary has fallen."

We are always glad to see good feeling existing between us and our neighbor state.

We wish to apologize to the *Carolinian* for any misstatements we may have made in the article in a late *Tar Heel* on South Carolina College. It was entirely unintentional, and we deplore the fact.

Efforts are being made to secure cheap rates in order to enable the students to take in the Virginia game. It is to be hoped that they will be successful, and that a large number of boys will take the trip, and help the team by cheering. Timely "rooting" is very encouraging, and has won games.

Among Our Exchanges.

The *Trinity Archive* is now under the management of the Senior Class, instead of the Literary Societies, as heretofore. The first number for the year has been received; it is devoted almost entirely to the inauguration of their new President, giving the different speeches on that occasion.

There are two little things in this number that strike us rather humorously. One is from a speech of Captain Durham of the Trinity team, delivered before the University-Trinity game; "But of the five times that we have met our distinguished contemporaries across the way upon the athletic field, four times have we hung their scalps as trophies upon our walls. And we promise that if history does not in this respect repeat itself, it will be no fault of ours." We know not what history is referred to; the history of 1892 was repeated. Trinity in speaking of athletics confines herself to football; we would like to ask her how about baseball.

The other thing was an item under "Miscellaneous;" "Some one wants to know is the hospital near

the college being erected for the special benefit of the Chapel Hill team when they come to play Trinity." Strange, isn't it, how queer this sounds now?

The *Sewanee Purple* calls our victory over Sewanee "rather startling;" says that while having no idea of victory, they did not expect any 36 to 4 against them. But they take some satisfaction in having scored on us.

The *Purple* goes for the Vanderbilt *Hustler* for its self laudatory editorial in a recent issue.

Last week's number of the *Nashville Student* contained a letter from its U. N. C. correspondent, W. R. Webb Jr.

The Oct. number of the Washington and Lee *Southern Collegian* has been received. It is a very well gotten up and readable issue. The *Wesleyan Argus*, coming from a college so far distant from us is naturally not very interesting to us, but we can admire it as a very good periodical, nevertheless. We have two good Wesleyanites among us.

We are glad to welcome among our exchanges the *Fayetteville Observer*, edited by that faithful alumnus, Maj. E. J. Hale, '60. It publishes the TAR HEEL account of Prof. Graham's lecture on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

University of Virginia takes great credit so herself because she has refused flattering offers to play Brown in New York on Thanksgiving Day, and remains true to her contract to play us on that date in Richmond. *College Topics* says,

"Our Thanksgiving Day game in Richmond has gotten to be recognized as the greatest event in Southern athletics, and the interest in it is increasing annually. It would never do to depart from this custom even before such fascinating prospects as a game in New York. If anyone thinks that North Carolina will prove a foe unworthy of our steel, let him hold his breath and wait. The 'Tarheels' have always played the game to win, and if they failed in their purpose, they kicked up a heap of dust trying."

The *Sewanee Purple* says, "North Carolina and Virginia meet in Richmond, Thanksgiving Day, to settle the Southern Championship, — provided, of course, (italics ours.) What is this provision that our contemporary makes? Surely it can not be the Vanderbilt game.

College Topics and the *Sewanee Purple* seem to have formed a mutual admiration society, object, to wage a crusade on the Vanderbilt *Hustler*. *Topics* and the *Hustler* have been engaged in a war of words about a Virginia-Vanderbilt game, which it seems the Tennesseans were very anxious to obtain but were unsuccessful. The fight is still going on, but has branched into purity in athletics, and importation of stars.

Falls, '97, a member of the scrub team, umpired the Trinity-A. & M. game.